

## 2007 Feed Bill Synopsis

Prepared by the Montana Legislative Services Division  
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House of Representatives:	2007 Feed Bill	2005 Feed Bill	Difference
<b>Legislator Salary and Expenses</b>			
Salaries	\$ 744,480	\$ 681,650	\$ 62,830
Per Diem	1,115,875	1,043,955	71,920
Retirement	181,093	128,260	52,833
Health Insurance	1,403,136	1,164,720	238,416
Other (FICA, WC)	73,985	71,555	2,430
Mileage	67,900	58,320	9,580
House Employee Salaries	662,513	634,719	27,794
Legislative Operations	63,300	55,600	7,700
Leadership (Majority)	10,000	7,500	2,500
Leadership (Minority)	5,000	7,500	(2,500)
Caucus and Start-Up	108,004	83,821	24,183
Orientation and Training	31,757	16,236	15,521
<b>Total House Feed Bill Budget</b>	<b>\$4,467,043</b>	<b>\$3,963,636</b>	<b>\$503,207</b>

Senate:	2007 Feed Bill	2005 Feed Bill	Difference
<b>Legislator Salary and Expenses</b>			
Salaries	\$ 372,465	\$ 346,050	\$ 26,415
Per Diem	557,938	521,978	35,960
Retirement	132,242	142,418	(10,176)
Health Insurance	704,910	590,840	114,270
Other (FICA, WC)	36,587	34,230	2,357
Mileage	33,950	29,160	4,790
Senate Employee Salaries	568,857	575,716	(6,859)
Legislative Operations	56,250	55,600	650
Leadership (Majority)	10,000	10,000	0
Leadership (Minority)	5,000	5,000	0
Caucus and Start-Up	76,822	66,542	10,280
Orientation and Training	21,529	5,713	15,816
<b>Total Senate Feed Bill Budget</b>	<b>\$2,576,580</b>	<b>\$2,383,047</b>	<b>\$193,503</b>

Legislative Services Division:	2007 Feed Bill	2005 Feed Bill	Difference
Bill Printing and Distribution	\$311,703	\$335,379	\$( 23,676)
Legislative Publications	56,600	41,725	14,875
Legislative Information Office	45,181	47,485	(2,304)
Telephones & Data Expense	47,950	47,950	0
TVMT Broadcasting	195,918	\$ 80,300	\$ 115,618
<b>Total LSD Feed Bill Budget</b>	<b>\$657,352</b>	<b>\$552,839</b>	<b>\$104,513</b>

<b>Total 2007 Feed Bill</b>	<b>\$7,700,945</b>	<b>\$6,899,522</b>	<b>\$801,423</b>
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## **General Discussion**

House Bill 1, the "Feed Bill," appropriates money for the operation of the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature from January 2007 through December 2008. Generally, the budget covers the operational costs of the House and Senate as well as salaries, benefits, and expenses of legislators. Legislative Services Division appropriations in the bill pay for the cost of bill printing, legislative publications, the information office, House and Senate telephones, and the broadcast of floor sessions and selected hearings. The overall budget increases 11.6% when compared to the previous biennium.

## **House and Senate**

### **▪ Legislator Salaries, Benefits and Expenses**

**Legislator Salaries** – The daily salary rate for the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature is \$82.67 per day calculated as defined in 5-2-301(1), MCA. The salary rate applies to budgets for legislator salaries during session, caucus and start-up prior to the next session, and the orientation and training budgets.

**Per Diem** - Legislator *per diem* for the 60<sup>th</sup> Legislature increases from \$94.05 a day to \$98.75 a day. The statute requires the *per diem* rate to be established as the lesser of three calculations:

- a) a survey conducted by the Department of Administration to determine the average allowance for daily expenses of legislators in surrounding states;
- b) a cost of living increase to reflect inflation calculated by the Department of Revenue pursuant to 15-6-134, MCA; or
- c) 5%.

For 2007, the 5% calculation represented the lesser of the three amounts.

**Retirement** - House and Senate budgets include amounts for the employer match to retirement withholdings of legislators who are members of one of the state's retirement systems.

In addition, funds are set aside to pay for the cost of purchases of service time by past or present legislators, and for the purchase of 1-for-5 additional retirement service for term-limited legislators under the Employee Protection Act.

**Health Insurance** - Health insurance benefits are budgeted at the rates proposed in the Governor's budget and include funding for 24 months. The \$557 monthly rate for 2007 continues through December; the proposed rate for calendar year 2008 is \$590 per month. Expenditures in this category are driven by legislative decisions on the state contribution rate.

Legislators who were term limited in 2006 and who were members of the state insurance plan at the end of their term of office are eligible for the continuation of the state insurance contribution for up to six months following the end of their term of office. Estimates are based on the records of individual legislators. The budget in the House is \$26,736, and \$16,710 in the Senate.



**Mileage and Travel** - The budgeted rate for legislator mileage during session and for the 2008 caucus is 48.5 cents a mile--the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rate for tax purposes for calendar year 2007. The rate is used to calculate the budget for both years of the biennium. If the IRS increases the rate in 2008, the mileage costs for the caucus and orientation in 2008 may be slightly underestimated.

- **House and Senate Employee Salaries**

Employee personal services budgets are affected by salary base rates, the number of employees, the anticipated number of hours to be worked, and overtime assumptions. Base rates for House and Senate positions include progression adjustments for returning employees who have prior experience. Budgets for legislative pages reflect an increase in the minimum wage to \$6.15 per hour.

- **Operations of House and Senate**

The House and Senate operations budgets increase by \$7,700 for the House and \$650 for the Senate and are comparable to actual 2005 feed bill expenditures.

There is no budget included for travel of appropriation subcommittees. The last feed bill to include such a budget was the 2001 feed bill.

- **Majority and Minority Leadership**

House and Senate budgets include an interim budget for leadership-approved expenses to conduct interim legislative business. The total combined budgets remain the same as the previous feed bill--the last increase to leadership budgets was in the 1999 feed bill.

- **Caucus and Start-up**

House and Senate budgets include funds for costs related to the 2008 legislative caucus and preparation for the 2009 regular session. Budgets cover the cost of legislator and legislator-elect salaries and expenses to attend the caucus, pre-session leadership preparations, meetings of rules committees, staff salaries during the start-up period, and operational preparations for the session.

- **Legislator Training and Orientation**

Legislator orientation and training will be conducted in November 2008 for the fourth biennium. Budgets include compensation and expenses authorized under 5-2-203, MCA, and fluctuate due to changes in the anticipated number of new legislators. For the first time, a budgeted amount for the training of committee chairmen has been added.

### **Legislative Services Division**

The Legislative Services Division (LSD) budget includes allocations for the cost of operating the data distribution and legislative information offices which are active only during sessions. The data distribution office prints and distributes legislative bills; the legislative information office provides information to the public related to hearing schedules, the status of bills, and ongoing session activities. In addition, budgets are included for payment of House and Senate telephone costs during the session and throughout the interim, printing publications

after the session, and the production and broadcast of floor sessions and selected committee hearings during the session.

- **Bill Print and Distribution**

The budget reflects the steadily decreasing number of copies made during the last six regular sessions. The per-copy cost has not increased, however, the number of bills introduced, the size of bills, the number of amendments, and bills passing to the second house, etc., greatly affect the actual expenditure.

- **Legislative Publications**

An increased budget reflects the increased printing costs experienced following the 2005 session.

- **Legislative Information**

The anticipated budget is decreased for the second session in a row and reflects fewer staff members and revised office hours.

- **Legislative Telephones**

The legislative telephones budget remains unchanged from the 2005 session.

- **Television Montana (TVMT) Broadcasting**

The contract for television production services, which includes videotaping and broadcasting of legislative hearings and House and Senate floor sessions, has been expanded to include all committee hearings and meeting rooms. For the first time, audio recordings replace written minutes of every committee. Also for the first time, a \$75,000 budget is included for prepayments required to obtain transmission and distribution services to cable networks across the state for the 2009 session.